(b) the percentage of the dependency of the country in the field of defence on indigenous production at present; and

(c) what are the schemes to promote indigenisation of defence production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Defence has notified the procedure for selection of Tier-1 Indian industries in the private sector, which will be treated at per with Defence PSUs in terms of the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure—2005. Such private industries have been named as "Raksha Udyog Ratnas".

(b) About 74% of the total procurement of defence products was made through indigenous sources during the year 2005-2006.

(c) Defence Research & Development Organisation is mandated to promote indigenization of defence items through research and development in Defence. In addition, there are schemes for grant of awards for excellence for the industry for promotion of indigenization of defence production. Apart from this, there is a constant effort on the part of Department of Defence Production and Service HQrs to encourage indigenization of components, assemblies and sub-assemblies etc.

Name of regiment after Himachal Pradesh

896. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maximum soldiers and other ranks join Armed Forces and other para militaries from Himachal Pradesh, but so far no regiment of the State has been created by Government; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to establish the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to raise a separate Himachal Regiment.

Operation Sadbhavana

897. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army is conducting Operation Sadbhavana in Kashmir Valley;

(b) if so, what are the objectives of this operation;

(c) how many orphaned Kashmiri children have been adopted under this scheme by the Army during last three years; and

(d) the list of NGOs and other organizations, which are looking after the children under Operation Sadbhavana?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Operation SADBHAVANA has been launched by the Army as a multi faceted military civic action programme in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) to generate goodwill and win hearts of the people living especially in remote and inaccessible areas. The major thrust areas under 'Operation Sadbhavana' are women empowerment, quality education, better health care and community development.

(c) and (d) At present, the Army is running three orphanages for 155 children who have been the victims of terrorism in J&K. MUSKAN, an orphanage at Badami Bagh Cantonment, Srinagar is looking after 52 children. Similarly, BAL ASHRAM, at Kargil, and ANKUR, at Riasi (Udhampur) are looking after 63 and 40 children respectively.

Contributory health scheme for ex-servicemen

898. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Contributory Health Scheme for Ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether some private hospitals have filed huge claims to his Ministry regarding treatment of ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The ECHS is based on the pattern of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and was introduced from 1st April, 2003 to provide comprehensive medical coverage to ex-servicemen pensioners, war widows and their authorized dependents. Ex-servicemen who had retired prior to the date of introduction of the ECHS can also become members by making a one time contribution. However, it is compulsory for service pensioners